



What Being at the Blue Ribbon Award Ceremony Means

Voices (in order of appearance)

Greg Granta, Principal, Woodlawn Middle School, Long Grove, IL

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You look around and you see who's here, and it's exciting for all us to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon school.

It's a wonderful opportunity. I know a perfect example Last night my colleague and I were sitting downstairs and we met an interim superintendent from Texas, and he was so enthusiastic, and so exciting and we were talking—very briefly—just about what's going on in our schools, and how he moved a very difficult population forward—and we were almost doing the same thing! So it was kind of validating. So I'm excited to hear what colleagues around the country are doing and what works in their buildings.

Coming here to the national Blue Ribbon ceremony, I'm able to talk with the best of the best. I'm able to find the very best practices, the things that are making the difference. Because I'm going to steal them and I'm going to bring them to my site so that every student has the opportunity to learn in the very best way.

It's exciting because we're with other people that feel that education is probably the most important thing in the whole world, and who have achieved excellence because of hard work and living and breathing curricula, because that's what it's all about. We're very excited to be in our nation's capitol, and to be demonstrating that schools *can* make a difference and they can be successful and can be excellent. We all should be very proud of our school system. I really believe that people that go into education are there to be excellent and have their students be excellent. And to be competitive with the rest of the world.